

Patient Information: Colonoscopy Morning Procedure

Colonoscopy involves examination of your large bowel (colon) with an instrument called an endoscope.

INDICATIONS: Colonoscopy is recommended if your symptoms suggest a problem with your colon. A number of procedures can be completed via the endoscope, most commonly removal of polyps and taking biopsies.

RISKS: Colonoscopy is very safe but as with all medical procedures there is some risk. Sedative drugs can cause heart or lung complications. Very rarely the procedure can make a hole in the bowel – this is called a bowel perforation. The risk of bowel perforation is less than 1 in 2,500. If these complications occur a blood transfusion or surgery may be required. Extremely rarely these complications can be fatal. Minor possible complications include abdominal pain, dehydration, or discomfort at the site of injection of sedative drugs.

ALTERNATIVES: An alternative to colonoscopy is an x-ray test called virtual colonoscopy. Although this procedure avoids the risk associated with an anesthetic, virtual colonoscopy still requires a bowel preparation, is less accurate than traditional colonoscopy, involves a small radiation exposure, and does not allow polyp removal or biopsy.

COSTS: We do not charge a gap for endoscopy services. The only cost from your procedure should be the excess upon making a claim on your private health insurance. This can vary depending on the insurer and the policy - we suggest you confirm this with them prior to your procedure. The Medicare item number for colonoscopy is 32090. If a gastroscopy is to be performed at the same time this item number is 30473. Pathology services (examination of polyps or biopsies) may also incur an out of pocket cost. If uninsured we can provide a cost estimate.

MEDICATION: If you take **diabetic medication** (injections or tablets) **or blood thinning medication** please discuss this with us prior to your procedure. Cease oral iron, bran or fibre supplements at least five days before examination. You may continue to take other medication/tablets (including aspirin) unless directed. Even on the day of the procedure you may take allowed medication at the usual time with a small volume (sips) of water.

PREPARATION: Please read over your information sheets at least five days before your procedure. You will need to purchase the bowel preparation medication from your pharmacist. The bowel preparation will make you go to the toilet frequently so plan to stay at home. **For a successful colonoscopy it is very important that you follow the preparation so that the bowel is thoroughly emptied.**

PROCEDURE DETAILS: You will see the anesthetist before your procedure:

Place: Warringal Private Hospital- Admissions
216 Burgundy Street, Heidelberg Vic 3084

Date: _____

Time: Warringal will confirm your admission time on the previous working day

FOLLOWING YOUR PROCEDURE: Do not drive, operate machinery, or perform skilled tasks until the following day, as sedative drugs may affect your concentration or co-ordination. You will be ready for discharge about two hours after the procedure – up to 4 hours after arrival. Please arrange to have someone drive you home. It is best not to be alone on the day of the test. Your doctor will indicate recommended follow-up in the procedure report.

If you have any queries please ring our Heidelberg rooms on 9459 9522 Opt 3